

During May 1999, we will observe Victory in Europe Day, Military Spouse Day, Armed Forces Day, and, most importantly, Memorial Day. It is appropriate that, with our armed forces currently operating in Bosnia, Macedonia, Haiti, and the Persian Gulf, and conducting routine peacetime activities too numerous to list in support of U.S. foreign policy in virtually every part of the globe, that the nation dedicate that month to remind itself of the contribution these individuals make to the preservation of a way of life increasingly taken for granted.

It has become almost platitudinous to point out the increased burden placed on a smaller military since the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War. Our military forces are being sent into harm's way more often than during any period since the Vietnam War, with additional deployments contemplated as I speak. Strong economic growth and low unemployment have reduced the incentive on the part of many young people to enlist in the Armed Forces, thereby further diminishing the percentage of Americans exposed to military service. By designating May 1999 as National Military Appreciation Month, it is my hope that the country will be more inclined to reflect on the sacrifices of so many throughout our history and today, and to better understand why we in Congress are acting so hastily to address quality of life issues affecting our service personnel and their families. My good friend, DUNCAN HUNTER, has offered companion legislation in the House of Representatives, and I look forward to speedy passage of this bill in the weeks ahead.●

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my friend Senator McCAIN in submitting this resolution designating May 1999 as "National Military Appreciation Month." Senator McCAIN is one of the great champions in the Senate of the men and women who serve in our armed forces. It is a privilege to join him in sponsoring this resolution.

Day after day, our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines continue to demonstrate a high degree of excellence and commitment. No matter what we ask of them, they always respond in the most professional manner imaginable. We have asked them to serve in combat operations, in peacekeeping missions, and in humanitarian relief efforts. We have deployed them around the world to stand in the face of aggression. They make tremendous personal sacrifices to serve their nation.

The most recent example of the excellence and professionalism of our forces was Operation Desert Fox. Over 40,000 troops deployed from bases around the world in response to Saddam Hussein's flagrant defiance of UN authorized inspections. Without a single U.S. or British casualty, our troops

flew more than 600 aircraft sorties, 300 of them a night. Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines all participated in this flawless operation. This same excellence has been demonstrated in Bosnia, Korea, Central America, and every other place where our members serve.

Our troops are, quite simply, the best. They are the best trained, best equipped, best disciplined and most highly skilled and motivated military force in the world. They deserve the recognition of a grateful Nation. This resolution calls on all Americans to recognize and honor their dedication and service. It is the least we can do.●

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

#### SOLDIERS', SAILORS', AIRMEN'S, AND MARINES' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 1999

##### CLELAND AMENDMENT NO. 6

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. CLELAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (S. 4) to improve pay and retirement equity for members of the Armed Forces; and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 33, line 16, strike "for a period of more than 30 days" and insert "and a member of the Ready Reserve in any pay status".

On page 34, beginning on line 10, strike "on active duty" and insert "members on active duty; members of the Ready Reserve".

On page 35, strike lines 3 through 6 and insert the following:

"(c) MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTION.—(1) The amount contributed by a member of the uniformed services for any pay period out of basic pay may not exceed 5 percent of such member's basic pay for such pay period.

"(2)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the amount contributed by a member of the Ready Reserve for any pay period for any compensation received under section 206 of title 37 may not exceed 5 percent of such member's compensation for such pay period.

"(B) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, no contribution may be made under this paragraph for a member of the Ready Reserve for any year to the extent that such contribution, when added to prior contributions for such member for such year under this subchapter, exceeds any limitation under section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

On page 35, line 9, insert "or out of compensation under section 206 of title 37," after "out of basic pay".

On page 35, line 12, strike "308a, 308f," and insert "308a through 308h".

On page 36, in the matter following line 15, strike "on active duty" and insert "members on active duty; members of the Ready Reserve".

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, when S. 4 is debated in the Senate, I intend to offer an amendment to expand the Thrift Savings Plan to allow the participation of members of the Ready Reserve. The 1.5 million members of the Reserve Components make up half of our military forces. They are contrib-

uting to our military efforts at home and around the world every day of the year, side-by-side with their active duty counterparts. We are using our Reserve component personnel more often and for a broader range of missions and operations than ever before.

Since the end of the Cold War, members of the Reserve Components have participated at record levels. In fact, over 17,000 Reservists and Guardsmen have answered the Nation's call to bring peace to Bosnia. Nearly 270,000 Reservists and Guardsmen were mobilized during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Numerous Guard and Reserve units from all corners of the United States responded immediately to requests for assistance in the wake of Hurricane Mitch, delivering over 10 million pounds of humanitarian aid to devastated areas in Central America. Closer to home, Reserve and National Guard personnel answered the cries for help after devastating floods struck in North and South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa. They braved high winds and water to fill sandbags, provide security, and transport food, fresh water, medical supplies and disaster workers to the affected areas. And the Air Force Reserve's "Hurricane Hunters" are the only Department of Defense organization that routinely flies into tropical storms and hurricanes to collect data to improve forecast accuracy, which dramatically minimizes losses due to the destructive forces of these storms. These are but a few examples of what members of the Guard and Reserve do on a daily basis. What amazes me most is that many take part in these important military operations on a volunteer basis, and have to balance these demands with those of their full-time civilian careers and their families.

In September 1997, Secretary of Defense Cohen wrote a memorandum acknowledging an increased reliance on the Reserve Components. He called upon the Services to remove all remaining barriers to achieving a "seamless Total Force." He has also said that without Reservists, "we can't do it in Bosnia, we can't do it in the Gulf, we can't do it anywhere." The Reserve Components will, without a doubt, play an integral role in our national military strategy of the 21st century.

Allowing members who serve in the Reserve Components to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan would carry on the spirit of Secretary Cohen's Total Force policy at virtually no additional cost. But, most importantly, doing so sends a message to our citizen soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen that we recognize and appreciate their sacrifices.●

#### NOTICE OF HEARING

##### COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Senate